

Independence Sidewalk and Bikeway Advance Planning

March 2016

Process...

The purpose of the **Independence Sidewalk and Bikeway (ISB)** Advance Planning program is to help implement the vision of the Independence Boulevard Area Plan (*IBAP*) in support of economic development and revitalization along the Independence Boulevard corridor.

The goals of the ISB program is to construct sidewalk and bicycle projects that promote:

- transportation choices (pedestrian, bicycle, connections to transit)
- a sense of place
- economic development
- connectivity between neighborhoods and destinations

The project team developed a preliminary list of projects based on compliance with the program goals, *IBAP* vision, market study recommendations, and public input.

Community Engagement...

A series of meetings were held with leaders from various neighborhoods along the corridor. The feedback collected from the focus groups included what they liked or disliked about where they live as well as recommendations to improve connections and support economic development.

On June 23, 2015 the project teams for the Southeast Land Acquisitions and Street Connections (*SELASC*) and ISB Programs held a public meeting at Ovens Auditorium. The project teams presented the preliminary list of projects and asked attendees to select the top projects that meet the overall goals of the programs.



The project teams held a second public meeting on October 27, 2015 to present the recommended projects. Input received at the October 2015 public meeting will be used to develop concepts and refine the community outreach efforts as the various projects move into planning and design.

Students from East Mecklenburg High School also were given the opportunity to share their ideas for improving connectivity along the corridor during two focus group sessions.

City staff also attended a local Spanish news radio station to speak about the program, and have provided Spanish speaking staff at public meetings.

The ISB Program also conducted two public surveys. The first was done jointly with the *SELASC* Program, surveying participants at the June 23rd public meeting and online. The second was a short written survey in August when ISB team members went out to the public. In all, over 230 surveys were submitted. The findings were used to help define and prioritize the projects.

The Project Recommendations...

The project team prioritized the projects using these criteria: *Connectivity, Safety, Mobility, and Community Interest*. The top projects identified by the project team are listed below (see *project map on reverse*).

- ⇒ Independence Train North (B16)
- ⇒ Independence Trail South (B27)
- ⇒ Briar Creek Connector (B20)
- ⇒ Eastway / Wendover Connector (B25)

Next Steps...

The project team will prepare a final executive summary report of findings and recommendations. Planning and design of the top projects are scheduled to begin as part of the 2016 bond cycle.

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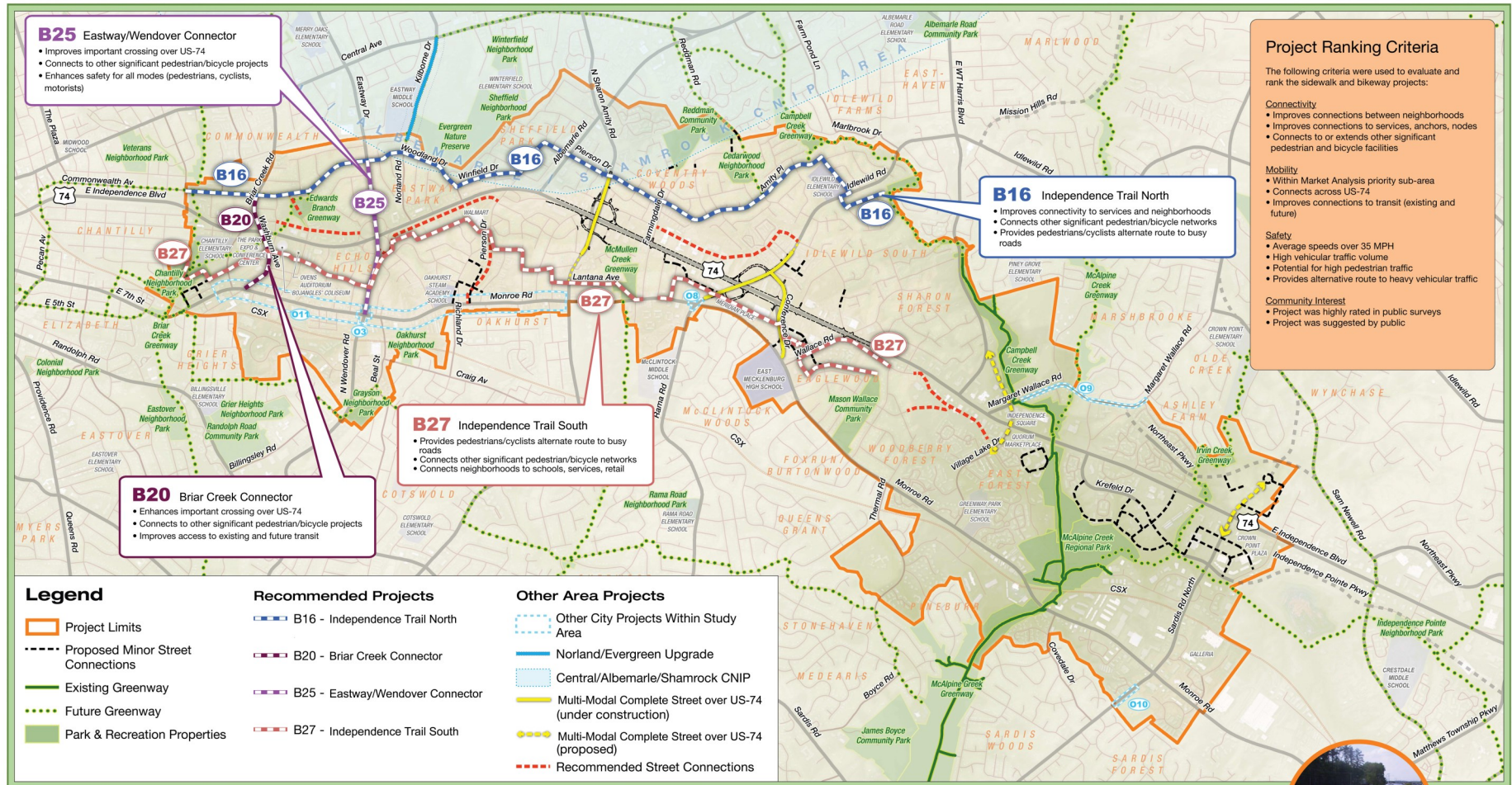
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Community Investment Plan Independence Boulevard Area Recommended Projects - Sidewalk & Bikeway



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